

# HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

## Democratic Caucus

**The Honorable John M. Spratt Jr. ■ Ranking Democratic Member**

---

B-71 Cannon HOB ■ Washington, DC 20515 ■ 202-226-7200 ■ [www.house.gov/budget\\_democrats](http://www.house.gov/budget_democrats)

July 22, 2004

## The Stalled U.S. Job Market

Dear Democratic Colleague:

Three years after the 2001 recession nominally ended, the U.S. job market is still weak. The number of Americans who have been unemployed for more than 26 weeks is still about double what it was four years ago, and the typical person losing a job is out of work about twice as long as he or she was four years ago. The number of “discouraged workers” (people who want jobs but have given up looking for work because they believe no jobs are available) is more than double what it was four years ago. The number of people who are working part-time because they cannot find full-time work is up by almost half. And inflation-adjusted weekly wages have barely budged over the last four years.

From the standpoint of the federal budget, this news is doubly troubling. Our budget is already in large deficit because of the excessive tax cuts, disproportionately targeted toward those who need the help the least, that were supposed to help the economy and create jobs. So now, we have the worst of both worlds: a weak job market, along with a depleted budget that has fewer resources which could be used to address the situation.

America can do better. I hope that the attached charts will be useful to you in discussing these issues with your constituents.

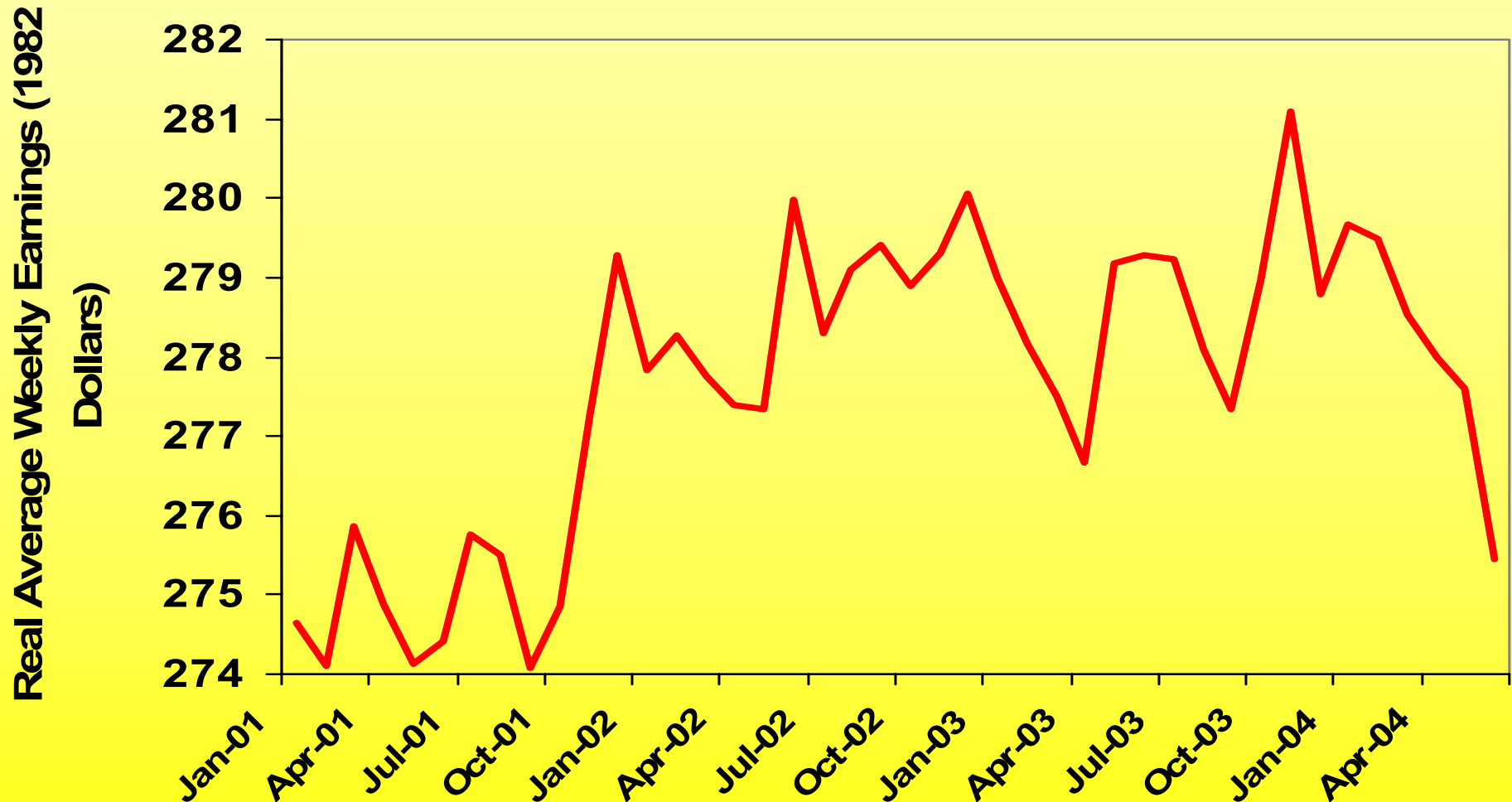
Sincerely,

/s

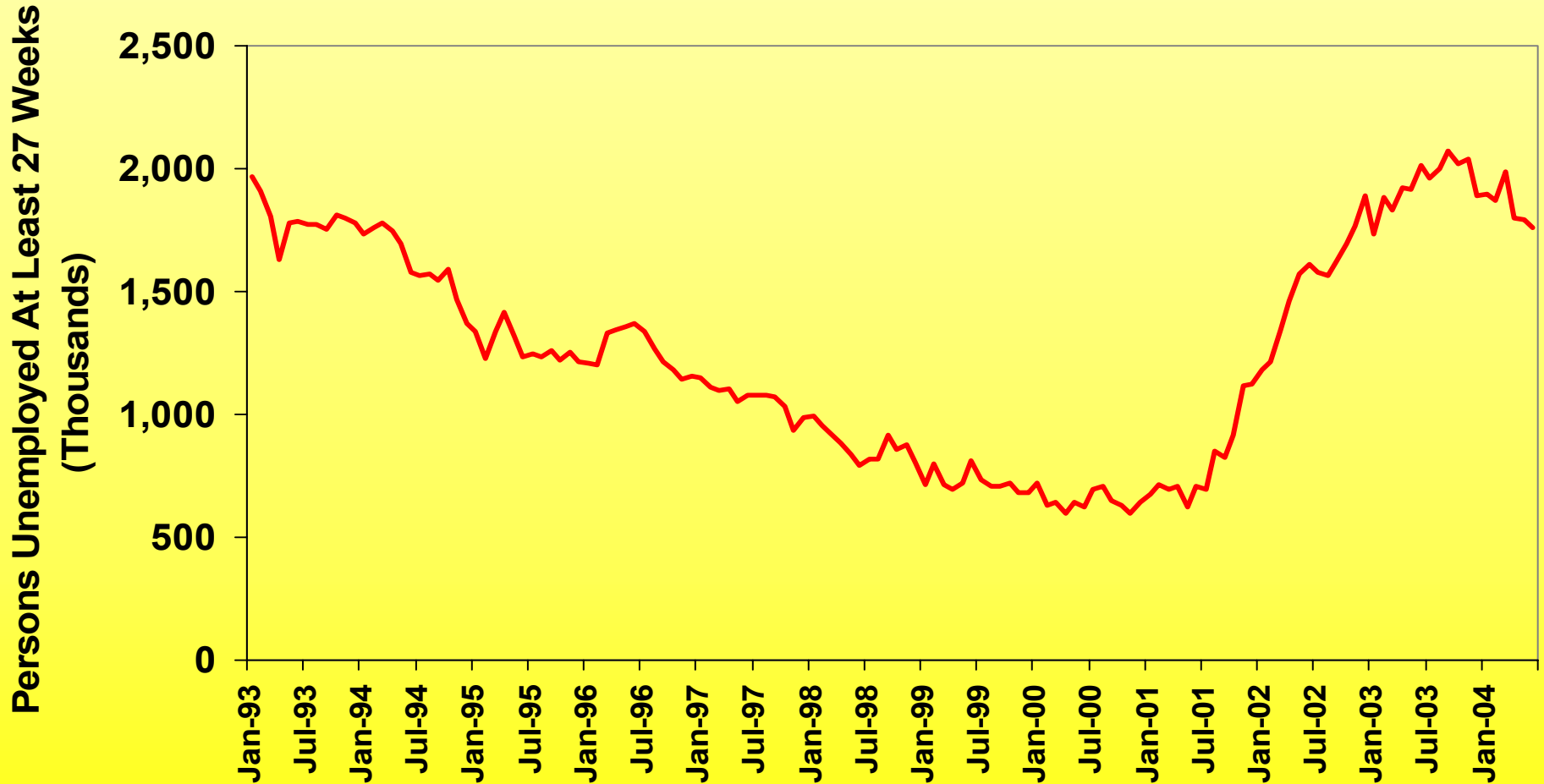
John M. Spratt, Jr.

Ranking Democratic Member

# Real Wages Have Been Stalled For Three Years



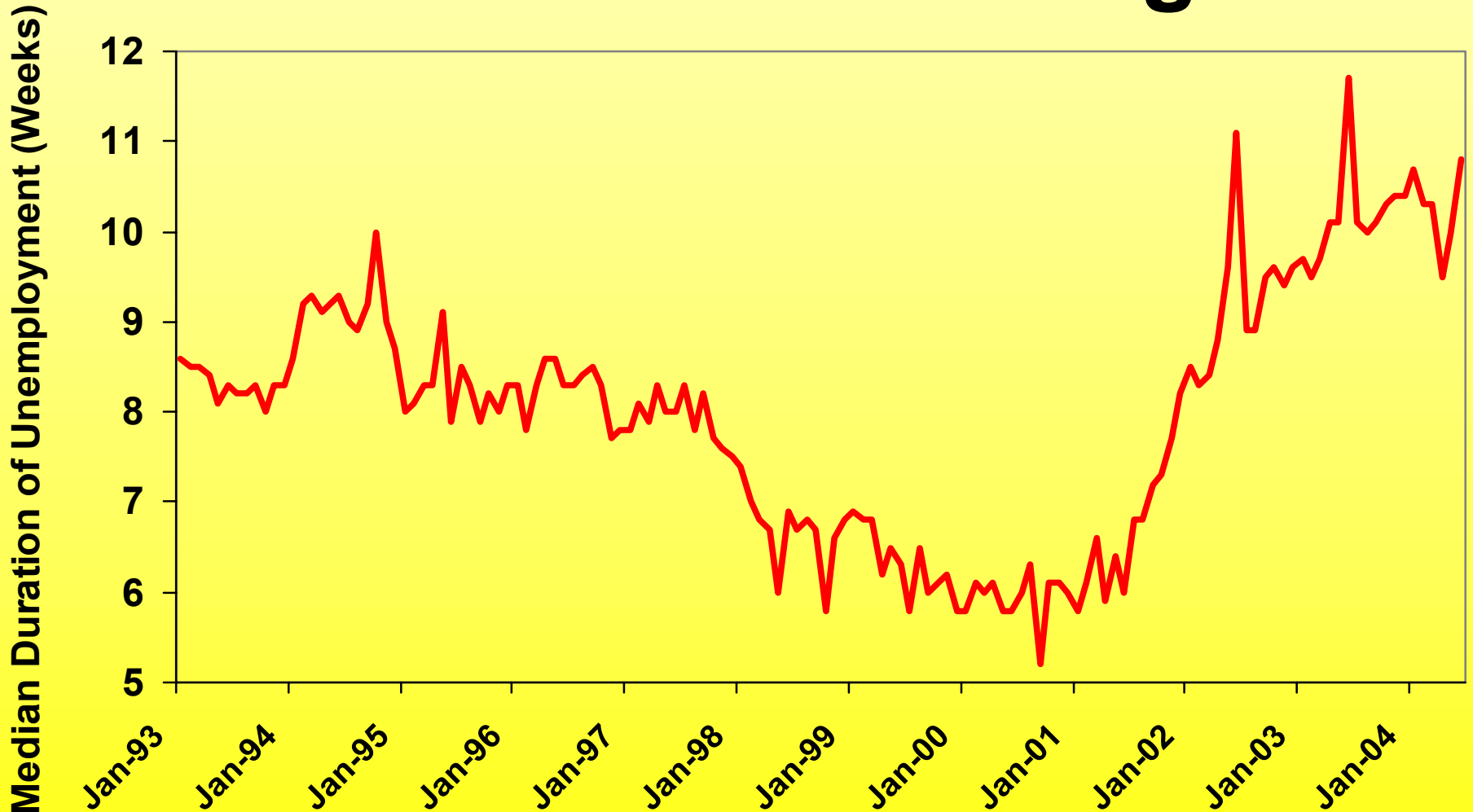
# Long-Term Unemployment Is Way Up



# Many Are Working Part-Time Involuntarily



# The Typical Unemployed Worker Is Jobless Much Longer



# Many Unemployed Believe There Are No Jobs Available

